



Robert H. Harry, JR., D.D.S.

Assistant Surgeon General

Acting Director

Urban Indian Health Program

Indian Health Service

Robert H. Harry, Jr., D.D.S., a member of the Cherokee Nation and an Oklahoma native, began his career with the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in 1976. Dr. Harry holds the Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps rank of Rear Admiral, Assistant Surgeon General.

Dr. Harry was assigned to the IHS Urban Indian Health Program (UIHP) in August 2004. As the Acting Director of the UIHP in the Office of the Director, Dr. Harry is responsible for the oversight of health programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives residing in urban areas. These programs include direct medical services, alcohol/substance abuse services, mental health, HIV/AIDS, and health promotion and disease prevention services. Urban Indian health programs strive to elevate the health status and assess the unmet needs of Indians residing in urban centers. Dr. Harry is responsible for evaluating UIHP operations, procedures, and management systems. He is also responsible for implementing improvements developed through collaborative efforts with Urban Indian health programs, Urban Indian organizations, Tribes, and Tribal organizations, as well as with federal, state, and local governments and foundations. Additionally, he serves as the principal advisor to the IHS Director on issues related to Urban Indian health.

Dr. Harry's first assignment was as a dental officer in the IHS Oklahoma City (OKC) Area, followed by assignments as a Community Development Specialist, Chief of the Area Dental Program, Assistant Area Director for Health Program Services, and Deputy Director for the OKC Area. In 1989 he was selected as the Area Director for the IHS Oklahoma City Area. As Director, he managed a comprehensive program that provided health services to the largest user population of all the IHS Area Offices, more than 280,000 American Indians comprising over 37 Tribes. The geographic area of responsibility covered the States of Oklahoma, Kansas, and portions of Texas where health care is provided through direct care, contract care, or tribally operated facilities.

In 1997 Dr. Harry was assigned to Headquarters to work on the restructuring of IHS Headquarters. From March 1997 to June 1998, he also served as Acting Director of the Office of Public Health, IHS Headquarters. In 1999 he was selected for the position of Executive Advisor to the IHS Director, a position he still holds concurrent with his duties as Acting Director of UIHP. As Executive Advisor to the IHS Director, Dr. Harry provides leadership for important and highly visible initiatives for American Indians and Alaska Natives relating to elder care, the improvement of services provided to IHS commissioned officers, and initiatives relating to the Emergency Preparedness Program. He also represents the Agency in health policy discussions with Tribes, Urban Indian health programs, and other Federal agencies.

Dr. Harry earned his doctor of dental surgery degree from the University of California at Los Angeles, School of Dentistry.